

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1192

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 4 WELLINGTON 1325

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON A.)

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S APRIL 3, 1976 PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 080341 (DTG 030128Z APR 76), (B) USIA 9831

(DTG 061710Z APR 76)

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TRANSCRIPT OF VICE PRESIDENT
ROCKEFELLER'S APRIL 3, 1976 PRESS CONFERENCE IN WELLINGTON.

2. AMBASSADOR SELEN: IT IS A GREAT HONOR FOR ME TO
PRESENT TO YOU THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

3. VICE PRESIDENT: MR. AMBASSADOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMENT...I
WANT TO THANK YOU FOR RISING AT THIS EARLY HOUR TO BE HERE,
BUT I DID WANT TO HAVE A CHANCE ON LEAVING TO EXPRESS THE
VERY DEEP APPRECIATION MRS. ROCKEFELLER AND I FEEL FOR THE
TREMENDOUS HOSPITALITY WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED -- A GREAT
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SENSE OF WARMTH AND COMMUNITY OF INTEREST, FRIENDSHIP WHICH

GROWS OUT OF A COMMON HERITAGE AND COMMON EXPERIENCES DURING A GOOD MANY HUNDRED YEARS, WORKING TOGETHER IN FOUR WARS FIGHTING SIDE BY SIDE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF FREEDOM AND LIBERTY. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS ESPECIALLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. MULDOON, OUR VERY DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THEIR THOUGHTFULNESS AND KINDNESS. I WAS TREMENDOUSLY IMPRESSED BY HIS SPEECH YESTERDAY AT LUNCH AND I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT WE IN THE UNITED STATES RECIPROCATATE TOTALLY THE SENTIMENTS HE EXPRESSED OF FRIENDSHIP, OF SOLIDARITY, AND THAT THE FEELING OF CONFIDENCE AND UNITY BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IS VERY DEEP...AND IS CHERISHED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SAY HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE... MRS. ROCKEFELLER AND I BOTH APPRECIATED THE RECEPTION AT THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S RESIDENCE LAST NIGHT WHICH GAVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET SO MANY WONDERFUL PEOPLE. AND, OF COURSE, ALL OF US ARE IN OUR COUNTRY GRATEFUL TO OUR AMBASSADOR WHO IS SUCH A WARM AND WONDERFUL PERSON WHO KNOWS OUR COUNTRY HAVING SERVED IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES WITH SUCH DISTINCTION AND NOW REPRESENTING US HERE AS A MAN WHO NOT ONLY LOVES YOUR COUNTRY BUT UNDERSTANDS OUR COUNTRY... WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT COMBINATION. WE'RE VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU MR. AMBASSADOR AND WANT TO THANK YOU AND ALL YOUR STAFF FOR THE MANY THOUGHTFULNESSES AND KINDNESSES WHICH YOU EXTENDED. I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO DISCUSS OR ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS WHICH ARE ON YOUR MINDS...THOSE THAT I CAN... AND RECEIVE ANY ADVICE AS I SAID YESTERDAY.

4. REPORTER: MR. VICE PRESIDENT.

5. VICE PRESIDENT: YES SIR.

6. REPORTER: CHRIS TURVER, RADIO NEW ZEALAND. DO YOU PERSONALLY FEEL IT'S NECESSARY FOR AN AMERICAN DISTINGUISHED VISITOR TO BRING A HUGE SECURITY GUARD TO NEW ZEALAND?

7. VICE PRESIDENT: THAT'S NOT A QUESTION THAT I...OVER WHICH I HAVE ANY CONTROL OR ANY INFLUENCE. THE UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE DOES WHAT THEY THINK IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF THEIR CHIEF EXECUTIVES. I THINK IF YOU TRACE THE RECENT HISTORY IN OUR COUNTRY YOU'LL SEE THAT WE HAVE LOST

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SOME VERY DISTINGUISHED LEADERS IN OUR COUNTRY...AND IT'S A SAD THING...SAD COMMENTARY ON THE TIMES IN WHICH WE LIVE BUT, THAT'S LIFE. BUT I ACCEPT IT...WHATEVER THEY SAY THEY THINK IS RIGHT AND NECESSARY, THAT'S FINE WITH ME.

8. REPORTER: YOU'VE HELD DEFENSE TALKS AS PART OF YOUR TALKS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER...AND WE KNOW THAT OUR GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO ALLOW NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIPS TO VISIT NEW ZEALAND

PORTS. HAS THERE BEEN ANY SUGGESTION BY YOU OR BY THE UNITED STATES THAT AMERICA WOULD LIKE TO INSTALL A NAVAL BASE OR AIR FACILITY IN NEW ZEALAND?

9. VICE PRESIDENT: ABSOLUTELY NONE...NO CONSIDERATION, AT HOME OR HERE.

10. REPORTER: IS IT LIKELY TO EMERGE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET...THE GROWTH OF SOVIET NAVAL POWER IN THE INDIAN OCEAN... AND PACIFIC?

11. VICE PRESIDENT: WELL, I HAV TO FEEL THAT YOU'RE A LITTLE BIT FAR FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN TO BE INVOLVED IN THAT...BUT THAT'S...IF YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THE MAP I THINK YOU'D HAVE THE SAME REACTION.

12. REPORTER: MR. VICE PRESIDENT, TIMOTHY BIRCH, RADIO NEW ZEALAND...IT...THERE SEEMS TO BE A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AS TO WHETHER AMERICAN WARSHIPS ARE CALLING HERE FOR REST AND RECREATION...AS THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAS REMARKED... OR WHETHER THEY ALSO HAVE A STRATEGIC ROLE WHICH WAS HINTED AT BY ADMIRAL GAYLER. COULD YOU CLARIFY THE POSITION?

13. VICE PRESIDENT: WELL, NOT BEING A NAVY MAN OR A MILITARY MAN I WOULD BE IN DIFFICULTY TO BE ABLE TO CLARIFY...ALTHOUGH I CAN SAY THAT YOUR COUNTRY'S VERY POPULAR IN OUR COUNTRY AND THAT OUR SERVICEMEN ALWAYS ENJOY THE PRIVILEGE AND THE OPPORTUNITY JUST AS WE HAVE OF COMING TO THIS BEAUTIFUL PORT. I DON'T THINK THERE ARE MANY OTHERS IN THE WORLD THAT ARE COMPARABLE. THE FRIENDSHIP OF YOU PEOPLE...AND, I'VE LISTENED AND READ SOME DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE DANGERS -- SO-CALLED. PERSONALLY, I HAVE TO SAY THAT TO ME THIS IS A LITTLE HARD TO UNDERSTAND. FOR 18 YEARS NOW WE'VE HAD NUCLEAR POWER UNCLASSIFIED

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REACTORS IN OUR COUNTRY. OUR NAVAL SHIPS INCREASINGLY ARE POWERED BY NUCLEAR REACTORS...DURING THE 18 PERIOD (SIC) OF COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF POWER THROUGH ATOMIC PLANTS, THERE HAVE BEEN NO ACCIDENTS CAUSING ANY DEATHS OR INJURIES. DURING THAT SAME PERIOD OF 18 YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES, ON THE HIGHWAYS, 848,544 AMERICANS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES. AND YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT BUT 75-MILLION AMERICANS HAVE BEEN INJURED IN HIGHWAY ACCIDENTS. AND YET THERE IS NO ACTIVE MOVEMENT IN OUR COUNTRY TO BAN THE CAR. NOW, THE ABSURDITY OF THE RELATIONSHIP IN THESE FIGURES WHERE ATOMIC POWER HAS CAUSED NO ACCIDENTS AND NO DEATHS. AND YET THIS TREMENDOUS DISCUSSION...ALL OF THE SAFETY MEASURES ARE TAKEN... PROTECTION. AND YET, AS I SAY, WE HAVE LOST ALMOST 850,000 LIVES ON THE HIGHWAYS WITH 75-MILLION DEATHS (SIC). SO I THINK THAT HELPS PUT IT IN PERSPECTIVE.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1193

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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14. REPORTER: MR. VICE PRESIDENT, BRUCE KOHN, PRESS
ASSOCIATION.

15. VICE PRESIDENT: YES SIR.

16. REPORTER: ON YOUR WAY TO NEW ZEALAND YOU CALLED, I THINK,
AT KUALA LUMPUR AND FOUND THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT
POTENTIAL GUERILLA ACTIVITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

17. VICE PRESIDENT: NO POTENTIAL, ACTUAL.

18. REPORTER: DID YOU DISCUSS WITH THEM THE POSSIBILITY OF
GREATER AMERICAN DEFENSE AID, AND WHILE IN CANBERRA AND
WELLINGTON, THE PROSPECT THAT NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA
MIGHT PLAY A BIGGER PART IN THAT AREA?

19. VICE PRESIDENT: WELL, I KNOW THAT THEY WELCOME THE
PARTICIPATION WITH BOTH NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA. IF I'M

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CORRECT, YOU HAVE A UNIT...A MILITARY UNIT THERE WHICH THEY ARE VERY PLEASED ABOUT. I THINK THAT AFTER VIETNAM, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE NOT GIVING ANY SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO LAND -- ACTUAL LAND ARMIES -- AMERICAN TROOPS ON LAND IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. SO THAT, THE DISCUSSIONS RELATED TO THE BROADER ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEMS TO WHICH I REFERRED YESTERDAY AND THE NEED FOR US TO ALL WORK TOGETHER RATHER THAN U.S. ACTION OR PARTICIPATION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF THAT.

20. REPORTER: WHAT'S THE UNITED STATES ATTITUDE TO THE CONTINUATION OF NEW ZEALAND MAINTAINING TROOPS IN SINGAPORE... WHICH IS THE NEAREST WE HAVE TO ASIA?

21. VICE PRESIDENT: WELL, I GOT THE REACTION OUT OF SINGAPORE THAT WE'RE VERY PLEASED. BUT I HAVE NOT DISCUSSED IT IN THE UNITED STATES SO THAT I COULD NOT GIVE YOU AN ANSWER. I JUST DON'T KNOW. DON'T HAPPEN TO HAVE PARTICIPATE IN ANY DISCUSSIONS ON THAT SUBJECT. BUT I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT I HAVE BEEN TREMENDOUSLY IMPRESSED BY THE ATTITUDE AND THE ACTIONS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT IN HELPING SO MANY OF THE SMALLER ISLANDS PEOPLE IN THE WHOLE SOUTH PACIFIC. I THINK IT'S ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING AND PROGRESSIVE AND HEART-WARMING EXPERIENCES TO SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON SMALLER ISLANDS AND WHO DON'T HAVE THE MEANS OF DEFENDING OR MEETING THEIR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL NEEDS. IF I'M CORRECT YOU'RE SPENDING A VERY SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF MONEY IN THIS KIND OF ASSISTANCE. I READ AN EDITORIAL IN YESTERDAY'S PAPER RELATING TO THE DIFFICULTIES OF LARGE NATIONS WORKING WITH SMALL NATIONS REFERRING TO OUR RELATIONS WITH CANADA AND I QUOTE, IF I'M CORRECT, FROM MR. TRUDEAU... SOMETHING ABOUT A MOSQUITO SLEEPING IN A BED WITH AN ELEPHANT. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT YOU AMONG...ESPECIALLY AMONG ALL NATIONS...MUST UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIP OF LARGE NATIONS WITH SMALL NATIONS BECAUSE YOU ARE WORKING WITH MANY SMALL NATIONS AND YOU TO THEM MUST BE LIKE THE ELEPHANT THAT WE ARE. THEY MUST FEEL LIKE THE MOSQUITO. BUT YOU HAVE DEVELOPED THE TECHNIQUES AND THE METHODS OF ACHIEVING A MUTUALITY OF INTEREST. AND I HAVE TO SAY THAT IN MY OPINION, OUR RELATIONS HERE, AND WITH AUSTRALIA FOR THAT MATTER, ARE, AND WITH CANADA, ARE ON THE SAME BASIS...OF MUTUALITY OF

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INTEREST. IF THERE ISN'T MUTUALITY OF INTEREST, REGARDLESS

OF SIZE, THERE'S NO BASIS FOR EFFECTIVE COOPERATION. AND IT CAN ONLY BE ON THAT WITH EACH SIDE RESPECTING THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF THE OTHER SIDE, AND THE DIGNITY AND THE WORTH OF THE INDIVIDUALS IN THE OTHER COUNTRIES AND TRYING TO FIND MEANS OF WORKING TOGETHER. OUR FUTURE SECURITY, OUR LIBERTY, OUR FREEDOM, OUR WELL-BEING AND THE GROWTH OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OPPORTUNITY MUST RELATE TO THAT MUTUALITY AND RESPECT.

22. REPORTER: MR. VICE PRESIDENT, THERE'S A SERIOUS TRADE IMBALANCE, AT LEAST FOR NEW ZEALAND, IN OUR TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES. YOU'VE HELD TALKS WITH MR. MULDOON ON THIS SUBJECT. DO YOU INTEND TO RETURN TO THE STATES AND SEEK AN IMPROVEMENT FOR NEW ZEALAND IN OUR EXPORTS POSITION?

23. VICE PRESIDENT: WELL, I EXPECT TO RETURN TO THE STATES AND TO REPORT ALL CONVERSATIONS WHICH I'VE HAD...WHICH IS ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THIS VISIT. I HAVE TO RECALL TO YOUR ATTENTION, SIR, THAT WE ALSO HAVE A RECESSION AND WE ALSO HAVE A DEFICIT OF SEVENTY-FOUR BILLION... AND WE HAVE EIGHT MILLION, OR EIGHT PERCENT UNEMPLOYED. AND WE'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH SOMEWHAT SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES TO THOSE THAT YOU'VE SUFFERED HERE. WE'RE DOING OUR BEST...THERE'S A LAW IN CONGRESS RELATING TO IMPORTS THAT HAS A TRIGGER POINT INVOLVED IN IT. AND THEREFORE, THAT WAS THE REASON FOR VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS... SO THAT THAT TRIGGER POINT WOULD NOT BE FOISTED UPON THE PRESIDENT TO IMPOSE LIMITATIONS. MY FEELING, VERY STRONGLY, IS THAT AS OUR ECONOMY PICKS UP -- WHICH IT IS -- THAT OUR IMPORTS WILL INCREASE AND THAT CERTAINLY IS OUR DESIRE BECAUSE WE RECOGNIZE THE TREMENDOUS IMPORTANCE OF THESE EXPORTS TO YOU AND THAT WE WANT...THESE IMPORTS FROM YOU...AND WE WANT TO SEE THOSE GROW AND THIS IS THE POLICY OF OUR GOVERNMENT AND AS RAPIDLY AS WE CAN, WE WILL. SO THE SYMPATHY'S THERE, THE EFFORT'S THERE, BUT THE RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN REAL AND THE PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN REAL ON BOTH SIDES. BUT THERE'S A TOTAL UNDERSTANDING AND I APPRECIATE THE FRANKNESS WITH WHICH WE'VE HAD THESE DISCUSSIONS.

24. REPORTER: MR. VICE PRESIDENT, FRED COCHRANE, TELEVISION ONE. COULD I PICK UP TO A QUESTION THAT WE TOUCHED ON BRIEFLY YESTERDAY WHEN YOU INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIAL UNCLASSIFIED

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BODY OF OPINION IN THE UNITED STATES WHICH WISH TO PULL OUT COMPLETELY FROM THE PACIFIC AREA AND REFER YOU FOR TWO OR THREE QUOTES WHICH WERE GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE OF NEW ZEALAND AFTER A VISIT HERE VERY RECENTLY BY SOME CONGRESSMEN. THESE ARE THAT "THERE IS CERTAINLY IN THE AMERICAN CONGRESS, A VERY STRONG BODY OF OPINION WISHING TO CUT DOWN SPENDING OF GLOBAL PRESENCE OF AMERICAN ARMED FORCES" AND AGAIN REFERRING TO THE PACIFIC..."IT'S NOT A PART OF THE

WORLD THE UNITED STATES IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN" AND
AGAIN "IT WOULD BE VERY EASY FOR US TO SAVE 24 BILLION DOLLARS
FROM WITHDRAWAL FROM THIS PART OF THE WORLD". I'D LIKE YOU
TO COMMENT ON THAT, IF YOU WOULD?

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P 080218Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1194

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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VICE PRESIDENT: WELL, AS YOU KNOW, E HAVE A FREE
COUNTRY AND EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO EXPRESS THEIR OWN OPINIONS.
SOME ARE MORE ENLIGHTENING THAN OTHERS. AND OUR CONGRESSMEN,
AS YOU ALSO KNOW, ARE ELECTED FROM DISTRICTS OF 400,000.
VOTERS COME FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. SOME PARTS OF THE
COUNTRY HAVE NO CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD--
TOTALLY INDEPENDENT AND LIVE WITHIN THERE OWN ENVIRONMENT AND
THEY PROBABLY HAVE LOCAL PROJECTS WHICH THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE
24 BILLION DOLLARS SPENT ON SO THAT TO THEM THIS HAS NO GREAT
MEANING, BUT, FORTUNATELY FOR ALL OF US, THERE ARE
ENLIGHTENED PEOPLE IN OUR COUNTRY WHO ARE LEADERS AND THOSE
WHO MAY NOT HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF EXPOSURE WHEN THEY GET
INTO THE POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY -- FIND WHERE OUR
NATIONAL INTERESTS LIE. THESE ARE INTERESTS OFMUTUALITY.

THEY ARE NOT YOUR INTERESTS ALONE OR OUR INTERESTS ALONE --
THEY ARE JOINT INTERESTS AND WHEN I SAY THERE IS NO SUBSTANTIAL
BODY, I MEAN THERE IS NO SUBSTANTIAL BODY OF OPINION WHICH,
IN THE DECISION-MAKING END, WHICH DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE
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TREMENDOUS IMPORTANCE OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY WHICH WE ALL HAVE
TO PARTICIPATE IN. I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS YESTERDAY. I HAVE
DISCUSSED THIS IN SOME DETAIL. THIS IS TRUE IN TERMS OF
ECONOMICS. IT'S TRUE IN TERMS OF SOCIAL PROGRESS. IT'S TRUE
IN TERMS OF PRESERVING OUR FREEDOM AND OUR LIBERTY. WE CAN'T
DO IT...ANYONE OF US ALONE...WE CAN'T DO IT IN OUR OWN
BACKYARD. WE'VE GOT TO FACE THE PROBLEMS WHERE THEY ARE AND
THEY ARE GLOBAL.

26. REPORTER: IT WOULD BE REASONABLE THEN FOR NEW ZEALAND
TO DISREGARD SUCH PROBLEMS?

27. VICE PRESIDENT: WELL, I THINK YOU GET A BETTER INSIGHT
AND WHAT WE ARE UP AGAINST AT HOME, WHEN YOU HEAR THESE COMMENTS
AND, THEREFORE, I THINK IT'S USEFUL TO HAVE THEM. BUT I
THINK THAT OUR COUNTRY IS TOTALLY COMMITTED TO THE DEFENSE
OF FREEDOM AND WE'VE LEARNED IN TWO WORLD WARS THAT BY WAITING
UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE IT'S MORE EXPENSIVE TO PRESERVE FREEDOM
THAN IT IS TO...THERE'S AN OLD SAYING IN AMERICA, "AN OUNCE
OF PREVENTION IS WORTH" WHAT IS IT, "A POUND OF CURE" OR "A
STITCH IN TIME SAVE NINE" AND I THINK THAT REALLY APPLIES TO
THIS FIELD, TOO.

28. REPORTER: MR. VICE PRESIDENT, COULD I ASK YOU A
QUESTION IN A RATHER LIGHTER VEIN? ONE OF YOUR MORE DOWN-
TO-EARTH PRESIDENTS, MR. HARRY TRUMAN, REFERRED TO THE OFFICE
OF VICE PRESIDENCY AS NOT BEING WORTH A PITCHER OF WARM SPIT.
(LAUGHTER) HAVE YOU FOUND THAT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUR
OFFICE HAVE DEVELOPED AND CHANGED SINCE MR. TRUMAN'S DAY?

29. VICE PRESIDENT: WELL, I KNEW MR. TRUMAN VERY WELL. I'M
A GREAT ADMIRER OF HIS AND I'VE KNOWN ALL THE VICE PRESIDENTS
SINCE HENRY WALLACE, WHICH GOES BACK TO ROOSEVELT'S DAY.
THEY WERE ALL FRUSTRATED AND BITTER BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T FEEL
THAT THEIR ROLE WAS IMPORTANT ENOUGH...COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR
OWN OPINION OF THEIR STATUS AND SIGNIFICANCE ON THE WORLD
SCENE. I WORKED FOR PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AT ONE TIME AS
CHAIRMAN OF HIS COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION, AND HE
ASKED US TO MAKE A STUDY OF THE ROLE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT.
THIS WAS IN CONNECTION WITH MR. NIXON, WHO WAS THEN VICE
PRESIDENT, WHICH I DID. AFTER THREE MONTHS WE RECOMMENDED
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THAT THERE WAS NO ROLE EXCEPT THAT OF PRESIDING OVER THE SENATE, WHICH IS THE CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE AND THAT ANYTHING BEYOND THAT OF ANY SUBSTANCE WOULD CREATE A COMPETITIVE CENTER -- POLITICAL CENTER -- WITHIN THE STRUCTURE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S EXECUTIVE BRANCH. WE COULD HAVE DIFFICULTY. THEREFORE, IT DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON THE PRESIDENT AND THE RELATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT. IF THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO USE THE VICE PRESIDENT HE CAN ACT AS STAFF ASSISTANT WHICH IS WHAT I DO. I'VE TAKEN A HALF-A-DOZEN OR MORE COMMISSIONS FOR HIM. I PARTICIPATE IN ALL OF HIS MEETINGS, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, DOMESTIC COUNCIL, ETC. AND HE HAS ENCOURAGED ME TO EXPRESS MY VIEWS WHICH I DO. HE GIVES CONSIDERATION AND I THINK THAT IT REALLY DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE VICE PRESIDENT...PRESIDENT AND THE VICE PRESIDENT. MR. TRUMAN WAS AN OUTSTANDING PERSON AND BECAME PRESIDENT -- I THINK ONE OF OUR GREAT PRESIDENTS. SO THAT I'VE ENJOYED THIS EXPERIENCE TREMENDOUSLY. HE'S THE SIXTH PRESIDENT I'VE WORKED FOR OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS. I KNOW WASHINGTON VERY WELL SO I HAVE NO ILLUSIONS.

30. REPORTER: MR. VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNOR REAGAN CAME THROUGH VERY STRONGLY IN THE NORTH CAROLINA PRIMARY AND SHOULD HE CONTINUE TO (INAUDIBLE) JEOPARDIZE PRESIDENT FORD'S CHANCES FOR RENOMINATION; ARE YOU PREPARED TO COME FORWARD AS A POTENTIAL COMPROMISE CANDIDATE IF REAGAN IS REELECTED PRESIDENT?

31. VICE PRESIDENT: WELL, I'LL HAVE TO REPHRASE YOUR QUESTION BECAUSE HE HAS NOT BEEN REELECTED SO IT WOULDN'T BE A CASE OF CONTINUING (INAUDIBLE). HE WON IN NORTH CAROLINA. NOT THAT NORTH CAROLINA ISN'T A WONDERFUL STATE, BUT IT'S A SMALL STATE AND IT'S A SOUTHERN STATE AND THAT'S WHERE HIS GREATEST STRENGTH IS AND WHERE HE'S HAD DELEGATES BEFORE. I DON'T THINK THAT...PERSONALLY, OF COURSE, I THINK HIS BEING IN THIS IS A WONDERFUL THING FOR THE PRESIDENT. IF HE WASN'T IN THE RACE THERE WOULD BE NO ATTENTION ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE, SO HE'S DONE US A GREAT FAVOR. (INAUDIBLE) ILLINOIS PRIMARY THAT I THOUGHT REAGAN HAD DONE MORE FOR THE PRESIDENT THAN ANY OTHER PERSON IN THE COUNTRY, EXCEPT FOR THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF, SO THAT I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO HIM. HE'S A FRIEND OF MINE. I KNOW HIM. I DON'T THINK HIS SPEECH --
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WHAT I'VE SEEN OF THEM -- THIS TELEVISION HALF-HOUR ADDRESS IS GOING TO SWEEP THE NATION. HE IS A MAN WHO DID A GOOD JOB AS GOVERNOR. HE'S NEVER HAD ANY EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND I THINK MAYBE (INAUDIBLE).

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P 080218Z APR 76

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32. REPORTER: MR. VICE PRESIDENT, MERV MILLER, SOUTH PACIFIC NEWS. YESTERDAY YOU SPOKE OUT VERY STRONGLY ABOUT THE EXISTING COMMUNIST THREAT TO WORLD PEACE. DO YOU SEE THIS AS BEING ANY GREATER OR LESS THAN IT HAS BEEN IN RECENT YEARS AND DO YOU SEE THE SOVIET NAVAL BUILDUP IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AS AN INDICATION THAT WE'LL SEE A GREAT SOVIET PRESENCE IN AFRICA?

33. VICE PRESIDENT: SOMETIMES I DO.

34. REPORTER: ON THIS SUBJECT, MR. VICE PRESIDENT, COULD YOU BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT WHERE YOU SEE A DANGER IN THIS REGION? DO YOU SEE PROBLEMS IN THAILAND AND KOREA?

35. VICE PRESIDENT: WELL, I THINK IT'S WORLDWIDE, FRANKLY. I THINK THIS IS A LONG-TERM STATEED GOAL, EVERY SOVIET LEADER HAS EXPRESSED THE SENTIMENT THAT (INAUDIBLE). THERE'S BEEN NO CHANGE IN BASIC EITHER MARXIST CONCEPTS, VARIATIONS

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OR IN THE TRADITIONAL CZARIST, SOVIET IMPERIALIST OBJECTIVES. THEY'VE SORT OF MERGED AND THEY ARE A VERY POWERFUL, HIGHLY ORGANIZED, MULTIFACETED ACTIVITY. THEIR NAVY AND THEIR AIR FORCE AND THEIR SATELLITE OPERATIONS, COORDINATED AS THEY ARE, IS SOMETHING TOTALLY NEW IN THIS WORLD AND I THINK A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE NOT COME YET TO REALIZE THE FULL IMPLICATION JUST FROM THE MILITARY POINT OF VIEW. BUT THEN YOU ADD TO THAT THIS BROAD RANGE OF ACTIVITIES GOING ON IN EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, OF SUBVERSION, PENETRATIONS FROM ONE SOURCE OR ANOTHER, THEN THE "WAR OF LIBERATION" AND NOW... NEW ELEMENT WHICH WE SAW IN ANGOLA WAS USING THEIR COMMUNIST TROOPS WHICH ARE REMINISCENT OF THE (INAUDIBLE). BIT IT'S A VERY REAL THING AND THE INTERESTING THING IS IT'S BEEN CONSISTENT AND TIME IS NOT (INAUDIBLE). THE QUESTION IS DO WE COLLECTIVELY...THOSE OF US WHO BELIEVE IN FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY...DO WE STICK TOGETHER AND DO WE HAVE THE WILL, AS FREE PEOPLE, AND THE DETERMINATION TO PRESERVE A STRONG STAND OR BALANCE? IF WE WANT TO PRESERVE THESE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED IN FREE NATIONS THEN WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE. IT'S UNPLEASANT AND WE'D LIKE IT TO GO AWAY AND I THINK DETENTE...THE USE OF THE WORD DETENTE WAS MISLEADING TO A GREAT MANY PEOPLE WHO WISHFULLY THOUGHT THIS WAS THE END OF PSYCHOLOGICAL STRUGGLE. DETENTE WAS SIMPLY THE CONCEPT, AND I THINK A VERY WISE ONE DESIGNED, TO DEVELOP A CLOSER COMMUNICATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION TO AVOID UNEXPECTED CONFRONTATIONS WHICH COULD LEAD TO NUCLEAR WAR OR SOME OTHER TRAGIC CONSEQUENCE AND I THINK IT'S BEEN SUCCESSFUL. BUT I DON'T THINK THAT BECAUSE OF THAT WE WANT TO LOSE OUR VIGILANCE IN RELATINS TO THE OTHER ASPECTS, AND I DIDN'T MAKE REFERENCE TO NUCLEAR ASPECTS..I MADE REFERENCE ONLY TO THE CONVENTIONAL MILITARY AND THE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES.

36. REPORTER: MR. VICE PRESIDENT, KEITH SANDERS, TV TWO. WHAT WOULD BE THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES IF NEW ZEALAND HAD REFUSED YOU ACCESS OF NUCLEAR VESSELS?

37. VICE PRESIDENT: WELL, OF COURSE, I THINK THE INTERESTING THING IS THAT THIS WAS AN ISSUE IN YOUR LAST CAMPAIGN..WHICH TO ME IS VERY IMPORTANT. THIS IS NOT THE DECISION OF A MAN OR A PARTY. THIS IS THE DECISION OF THE PEOPLE OF NEW ZEALAND BECAUSE THIS WAS THE PARTY POSITION ANDTHE PARTY AND THEIR
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LEADER..THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. MULDOON, WAS SWEEPED INTO OFFICE

AFTER HE HAD SAID THIS IS
GOING TO BE MY POLICY. THEREFORE,
WE ARE TALKIN NOW ABOUT SOMETHING THAT REPRESENTS A DICISION
BY THE PEOPLE OF NEW ZEALAND. NOW I DON'T KNOW WHY THIS ISSUE
STILL GETS KICKED AROUND SO MUCH BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN SETTLED
BY THE PEOPLE OF NEW ZEALAND AND THIS IS A DEMOCRACY AND A
WONDERFUL FREE PEOPLE AND THEY HAD THEIR CHANCE TO MAKE A
DECISION AND THEY MADE IT. AND THEREFORE, TO ME IT'S A NON-
ISSUE.

38. REPORTER: IF THEY HAD HAD A DIFFERENT DICISION THOUGH...

39. VICE PRESIDENT: WELL THEY DIDN'T. SO WHY SHOULD
I SPECULATE ABOUT SOMETHING WHEN YOU HAVE SO MANY EXCITING
THINGS TO WRITE ABOUT THAT ARE REAL. WHY PICK THE
ONES THAT ARE UNREAL?

40. REPORTER: IF THERE WAS A NEW GOVERNMENT HERE WHICH
WOULD REVERSE THE DECISION, HOW WOULD THAT AFFECT RELATIONSHIPS?

41. VICE PRESIDENT: WELL, IF I HAPPEN TO BE HERE AT THAT
TIME I'LL DISCUSS IT WITH YOU. I DON'T SEE THAT. I MEAN TO
ME THE WHOLE ISSUE IS AN UNREAL ISSUE. I GAVE YOU THE FIGURES
ON THIS QUESTION OF DANGER. I ASSUME THAT'S THE ONLY REASON
THAT ANYONE'S CONCERNED. THEREFORE, TO ME IT'S LIKE SAYING
WE SHOULD ABOLISH MATCHES BECAUSE SOMEBODY MIGHT USE A MATCH
TO LIGHT...TO SET THEIR NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE ON FIRE.
WELL, SURE IT'S DANGEROUS...MATCHES ARE..OR THAT WE OUGHTN'T
TO HAVE KITCHEN KNIVES IN THE HOUSEWIFE'S FACILITIES IN THE
KITCHEN BECAUSE THEY MIGHT STAB THEIR HUSBAND.

42. REPORTER: WELL THERE IS ONE OTHER POINT AND THAT IS THE
PEOPLE FEAR THAT IF THERE ARE NUCLEAR SUBMARINES HERE WE MIGHT
BECOME A TARGET IN THE EVENT OF ANY CONFLICT BETWEEN YOU AND
ANY OTHER WORLD POWER.

43. VICE PRESIDENT: WELL, LOOK, IF YOU CHERISH FREEDOM AS
MUCH AS I DO, YOU CANNOT LIVE IN A RISKLESS WORLD. YOU'VE
GOT TO TAKE SOME RISKS AND IF YOU TAKE YOUR OWN HISTORY AS A
NATION, YOU DIDN'T GET HERE...OR YOUR ANCESTORS...BECAUSE
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THEY DIDN'T ... THEY WANTED A RISKLESS SOCIETY...OR YOU WOULDN'T
HAVE TAKEN THE RISK OF COMING HERE AND THE PIONEERS OF
YOUR COUNTRY AND OUR COUNTRY TOOK RISKS. AND I THINK ANYBODY
THAT'S SEEKING A RISKLESS SOCIETY IS KIDDING THEMSELVES. IF
WE WANT TO PRESERVE THOSE VALUES WHICH WE CHERISH AS SPIRITUAL
HUMAN BEINGS, WE'VE GOT TO BE WILLING TO TAKE THE RISKS THAT
GO WITH THEM AND I FEEL THAT THIS RISK IS A MINIMAL ONE SO
I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THIS ONE.

44. VICE PRESIDENT: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL
TO YOU, THE AMBASSADOR SAYS IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO.

45. REPORTER: THANK YOU.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976WELLIN01325
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760132-0721
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760480/aaaacqsx.tel
Line Count: 661
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 13
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 80341
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2005 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VICE PRESIDENT'S APRIL 3, 1976 PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: OVIP, (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006